

New England Swept With Demand For Adequate Housing Facilities for Employees in Armament Production

Much favorable comment is being heard over plans made by Representives of the Bath Iron Works, the tannery, D. Mass., favoring the erection of homes in New England cities where large numbers of workers are employed on the Government's defense program.

The Bath Iron Works has an interest in the shipbuilding plant of the Bath Iron Workers, where it is said a serious shortage exists.

In addition, the Bath Iron Works is said to employ some 3,000 workers, many of whom are compelled to commute from the adjacent centers, though they would like to save the cost and inconvenience of this transitory sort of existence. The company has been kept in the foot to assist the active support of the local authorities, for the furtherance of a housing project, in connection with its national defense plant expansion program.

New Hampshire Federation of Labor Unanimously Endorsed President for Third Term at Concord Convention

Among the resolutions adopted by the 39th annual convention of the New Hampshire Federation of Labor, held in Concord on Saturday, October 25, was the unanimous endorsement of President Roosevelt for a third term.

The resolution, which was passed unanimously, as regards the whole-hearted friendship manifested by the administration toward the workers of the nation, and the important laws enacted for their protection during his administration.

The administration of the war was also commended.

The administration of S. E. Davis has been anything but a "soft touch" to labor, according to another resolution, which urged his removal from office.

The resolution referred to all the work done by the administration with hampering legislation sponsored by the State Federation.

In addition, resolutions and good progress made by the Federation and affiliated unions were some of the highlights mentioned.

The convention also included an extensive program for military, organization, and other activities during the coming year.

FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ON DEMOCRACY

Principal among speakers at the convention was Spencer Miller, Jr., of the

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Mass. Federation of Labor Opens Campaign in Fall River for Re-Election of President Roosevelt

Parliament's action taken by the August convention of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor, while endorsed President Roosevelt's candidacy for a third term, the Federation will in a special bill to be introduced in Fall River this week, with U. S. Senator Joseph T. Gurney of Pennsylvania as the principal speaker.

In opening the meeting, Kenneth L. Taylor, general treasurer of the Federation, said: "Tonight's meeting starts the campaign of the Bostonians in Massachusetts to re-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt."

"Not only do we want to preserve the gains that are ours through the New Deal, but we want to make sure we must calculate perfectly, and use our best judgment in the selection of a leader of the nation," he said.

"We cannot afford to make a blunder with regard to the foreign de-

Pressmen's Delegate Says Int. Convention Largest and Best Ever

New England delegates who attended the annual convention of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union, held at Presseman's Home, Tennessee, unanimously say that ac-

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particularly Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

In the latter State, it is claimed that

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Quincy, Mass., and Pawtucket,

R. I., are other key cities in which

drastic steps have been taken by the

local government.

From this, it's evident that an

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hand in hand with any systematic and

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Good and sufficient arguments

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OCTOBER, 1940

Incorporation of Trade Unions

Always at times like the present, when excitement is at a high pitch and a certain element takes advantage of the times to suggest a breakdown of union conditions, the question arises concerning the compulsory incorporation of trade unions.

For the benefit of members of local unions who may not be thoroughly conversant with reasons why the Labor movement is opposed to compulsory incorporation, the following is reproduced from the History Encyclopedia Reference Book, published by the American Federation of Labor, under the supervision of the late Samuel Gompers:

"The first convention (1881) declared in its platform that unions should have the right to protection of their property, in like manner as that of all other persons and societies, and to secure that right we insist on state legislatures and Congress to enact laws for the incorporation of trade unions."

"In 1889 agitation for such a law was carried on, and in 1896 a Federal act provided for incorporation of trade unions in the District of Columbia and territories."

"In 1906 this declaration was made? Recently, the unconfounded charge against organized Labor has been repeated to the effect that trade unions violate agreements entered into with employers; and the uninformed, and particularly those antagonistic employers to organized labor, urge as a remedy to this imagined evil, the compulsory incorporation of the trade unions so that, as those referred to, 'the trade unions may be held legally responsible for the faithful carrying-out of agreements, and to be liable in damages in the event of their violation.'

"On the surface, this proposition seems fair; but when we bear in mind that often judges have deep-seated prejudices against organizations of labor; that the far-fetched interpretation in the Taff-Vale case, where an organization of labor in Great Britain was mulcted in damages for the actions of an individual member, under a law passed by the British Parliament as a 'concession to labor'; and that the enunciation of judicial principles is mutually interpreted and held by the Judiciary of all English-speaking countries, it is not difficult to divine the purpose that the advocates of compulsory incorporation of trade unions have in view. They would muzzle or outlaw our unions, the organizations which are the factors in our modern life to work for human progress by natural, rational, peaceable and evolutionary means."

"In 1904, it was declared: 'We will not submit to this new snare for Labor's disengagement. It is a pretext not honestly offered, but distinctly for the purpose of so malting the unions in damages as to prevent them from getting together the necessary funds for an effective resistance to any encroachment the Citizens' Alliance may choose to make at any time or place'."

"In 1912, it was further declared: 'Any national or international union by establishing an office in Washington, can incorporate; but the law applies only to the District of Columbia and the Territories'."

Turn 'Em Out!

Racketeers in the Labor movement were under hot fire at the recent convention of the Brotherhood of Teamsters, whose Daniel J. Tobin denounced them in terms which left no doubt as to where he stood. At the same convention, President Roosevelt paid his respects to labor racketeers in terms which left no doubt as to his sentiments.

While the convention was on, two individuals with unsavory records who had wormed their way into the ranks of union labor felt the heavy hand of the law—a hand which others of the same ilk will feel in the near future.

All of which indicates that labor racketeers are likely to find the going very rough. Fortunately, there are few labor racketeers and the Labor movement seems alive to their menace. But "even a single racketeer or gangster is one too

many," as the Illinois State Federation of Labor executive board says. Incidentally, the board points out a fact that enemies of labor ignore—that a union racketeer must operate with a dishonest outsider.

"There is no such being as 'racketeer' or 'gangster' operating solely within a labor organization," the board says. "Wherever he appears, he is a partner of some sort of unscrupulous political or business interests, usually with both! That in itself is sufficient reason for keeping such persons out of the ranks of organized Labor."

Dealing With Problems of Vital Importance

Wider participation by organized Labor in the making of policy dealing with problems of vital concern to workers in the field of national defense" is urged in an article in the October issue of the American Federationist, official magazine of the American Federation of Labor.

Appearing under the signature of Robert J. Watt, international representative of the A. F. of L., the article says:

"Full agreement of the Labor representatives should be an essential before the adoption of any policy of vital concern to workers, and no governmental administrator responsible for any part of the defense program should issue a basic order without having the benefit of the advice and experience of the groups concerned."

Discussing the subject of training of workers for defense jobs, Mr. Watt writes:

"There is continued and increasing confusion in the minds of workers throughout the country about what the National Advisory Defense Commission is trying to do about training workers for defense jobs. Workers are finding it difficult to understand the relationship to defenses and the relation to each other of the training programs of the Works Progress Administration, National Youth Administration, Civilian Conservation Corps, United States Office of Education and the apprenticeship section of the United States Department of Labor."

Workers will continue to view with concern "the possible flooding of the employment market with half-trained, low-priced youths while there are still thousands of well-equipped mechanics looking for employment," Mr. Watt declares.

Unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor are advised, in another article, to report wage price increases to the Consumers' Division of the National Defense Commission. This article urges that labor be on guard to prevent the defense program from cutting American living standards.

Labor and the USHA

"In connection with defense housing, as with the general slum clearance program, the United States Housing Authority and union labor have demonstrated again the benefits to be derived from harmonious labor relations," says the Washington, D. C., "Star".

Cooperating to speed up the economic construction of necessary housing for national defense workers, building trades unions are reported as agreeing to work double shifts at straight time wages on all such projects financed by the USHA.

This arrangement serves the important purpose of cutting construction time in half without substantially increasing costs.

The plan is based on resolutions adopted by local unions which provide that they will furnish double shifts at prevailing wage rates on an eight-hour day, forty-hour week basis. Only where individuals or shifts work in excess of these limitations is the overtime rate to be paid. Thus the workers are assured of no loss of酬劳 than guardedly "social gains" as a result of the defense program and in return pledge cooperation where speed is such an essential factor.

Other Federal agencies, such as the War and Navy Departments, and the Public Buildings Administration, which are slated to handle the great bulk of defense housing, could profit from a similar arrangement, as well as from "no strike" agreements, like those which guide construction work on USHA projects.

Labor is personally interested in defense housing as it is in public housing generally. It has demonstrated time and again in connection with slum clearance and public housing that it is willing and ready to cooperate when given the opportunity.

Teachers' Union Sees the Light

The American Federation of Teachers has apparently finally thrown off the Communist grip and as a consequence faces the opportunity for greater usefulness in the American labor movement than ever before.

At its recent Buffalo convention, the teachers' union elected a set of anti-Communist vice-presidents and re-elected its president, Dr. George S. Counts, who has made no secret of his hostility to the Communist influence in his organization. The action is hailed by Mark Starr, one of the new vice-presidents, as proof that the members want a "genuine trade union working in conjunction with the American Federation of Labor and with a policy corresponding to the needs of the American labor movement."

The temper of the convention was also revealed by its action in condemning all dictators, including that of Communist Russia.

Due largely to the Communist incubus, the American Federation of Teachers has fallen far short of its opportunities for betterment of the con-

dition of teachers. Now that the Communist officials have been kicked out, the organization should take its rightful place in the labor movement.

To Protect Workers' Rights

President William Green of the American Federation of Labor has urged city central and state labor bodies to press for labor representation on all boards administering the selective service act. Labor representation is particularly important, he says, on appeals boards, which pass on appeals, etc., from men selected by local boards.

Labor membership on selective service boards will go far to prevent injustices to workers and to refute the charges made by left-wing and other elements that the act is an anti-labor move. Typical of the charges is this:

"Conscription gives the anti-union employer a weapon far more powerful than the use of company unions or labor spies—because, today, if the employer merely wishes to get rid of an active unionist in his plant, all he has to do is to refuse to grant any worker 35 years of age a certificate that he is 'essential to industry'—and offend him to the bone."

If the danger conjured up in this quotation has any basis of fact, then labor representation on draft boards and alert, determined unionism in industry, is the answer. Even if there is no such danger, labor representation is needed. As was said in this column not long ago:

"Conscription is certainly a matter that directly affects the wage earners and their vital interests. Drafting of workers for military training and possible service, calls for a labor voice in the process."

Labor A Power in Britain Today

According to certain German propaganda sources, the British government is at present run by a group of aristocrats who are forcing the masses to fight so the wealthy can continue to loaf and live on the fat of the land. But Ernest Bevin, Herbert Morrison, Clement Attlee and Arthur Greenwood, all occupying high positions in the present government, can by no stretch of the imagination be classed as aristocrats.

Take for example Ernest Bevin, now Secretary of Transport, who used to drive a truck about Bristol at one time and who rose to become head of the powerful Transport Workers' Union. Despite the high government post that he now holds, he is still the tough, gruff truck driver he was when he led the great general strike after the last World War.

He still hates the old England—the England of misery and mansions, or peers and puppers—but he believes that the workers have as much to lose under Fascism as any other class. He has repeatedly stated that he is fighting this war for "the little men" of England, and so he labors sixteen hours a day in the heart of industrial England and German Goebbels seek to blast his efforts. He is determined to win this war from Germany and in doing this he believes that he will win by experience all over the world to the only means whereby justice can be gotten down low enough to enable really poor people to live in new and decent homes.

Bevin has been pointing out that decent housing is vital to effective defense production.

If it is revealed that enemies of public housing have blocked provision of decent dwellings for defense workers, there is likely to be an explosion of public wrath that will surprise certain people and interests.

Federation of Labor. And we are encouraged by increasing evidence that the loyal workers in the rebel movement are getting disgusted with Communist leadership and are fighting to get rid of it. That is good news not only for patriotic reasons but because the sooner Communist influence is eradicated from the dual movement, the sooner labor peace can be restored. From the beginning, the Communist Party has aided and abetted discord and strife and done its utmost to prevent unity in the Labor movement." William Green.

The Fight On Defense Housing

Senator Wagner's proposal for an appropriation of \$300,000,000 for housing of defense workers in cities where new housing is found to be needed, has been apparently effectively blocked by action of the Senate Appropriations Committee in changing the proposal to provide only temporary housing or barracks on army posts or reservations. The committee, in effect, took the position that workers in defense industries must do without new housing, if publicly provided, no matter how urgently needed.

Well-informed Washington observers suspect that the defeat遭到了在战争期间的提案，该提案最初是为防御工作者提供临时住所或军营宿舍。委员会在修改提案时，将“永久性”住房排除在外，认为即使在没有新住房的情况下，国防工业工人也应该自己解决住房问题。

“This, however, is only the beginning of a long fight. Proposing to change a combatant's proposal, his bid had to be so low that he will be lucky if he can afford even the cost of living. The system of subsidies which the average house is operating. Sometimes he does pretty well if everyone works together and tries to live on the same level. If you have a chance, look up the local credit agency's statement. The average house in the United States during the past ten years was over \$18,000 annually. And failure to meet the cost of living is due to the incompetence or dishonesty of the boss."

The house is up against the same social and economic system that were all fault. The system is not perfect, but it is not worse than ours. It is not as bad as some people say it is, but it should be a lot better. We have to work harder, but we have fewer panics in a country like ours, when one considers our marvelously productive war effort and today's war emergency. Let us work out a plan to eliminate extreme poverty and panics will be eliminated until the last day of war is over. Meanwhile, let us work out a plan to end the break. If we do, we'll be in a better position to give us a square deal.

Until we learn a better system, let's look upon each other as co-workers and not as enemies.

According to the report, the USHA has been working hard to improve the system.

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One-Third of Population Not Properly Fed, Says Defense Board Member, Calling for Remedial Action

One out of every three Americans is living below the "poverty line" of \$1,000 a year, the spokesman of the National Defense Advisory Commission declared in a call to the nation to strengthen its defense by providing adequate food for all.

"Let's make America strong by making Americans strong," said Miss Mabel Elliott, consumer adviser on the commission.

"Forty-five million of us are living below the poverty line now because we are not getting the kinds and amounts of food necessary for health and happiness."

"Hungry, undernourished people do not make for strong defense," said Elliott, who added that the landless masses of the world have hands that take to produce and move and market all the food we need to eat. Let's get to work to see that everyone gets at least that."

PROGRAM OF ACTION

In a special issue of the Consumers' Guide, Miss Elliott set forth eight suggestions under which she said good individuals could insure better diets for all.

1. A more careful radio message to household buyers will know each day what foods are good buys and cheap.

2. A school lunch program to insure that every school child gets at least one well-balanced and adequate meal daily.

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4. Work for low-cost ways of selling milk, fruits and vegetables so low-income families can buy them in greater abundance.

5. Encouragement of diet clinics where families can bring their feeding problems and discuss them with experts in nutrition and consumer buying.

FOOD STAMP PLAN SUPPORT

5. Support of the food stamp plan now operating in 185 cities.

6. Learn, if you have the land, how to grow the foods you cannot buy, preserve the foods you cannot use immediately, store the foods you can use throughout the year.

7. Urge merchants to sell Government surplus foods, and urge consumers to buy them.

8. Encourage employers who exploit substandard labor conditions gain an unfair advantage" and that Congress has the constitutional power to do something about it.

Both opinions were held that manufacturers should be regulated by states and not by the Federal government.

The new law at issue involves a charge the F. W. Darby Lumber Co. of Statesboro, Ga., violated the wage and hour act. The Federal District Court at Savannah held in favor of the company.

Govt. Asks Supreme Court to Uphold Wage-Hour Act

In a brief filed with the Supreme Court, the Federal Government has asked the court to overrule two pre-existing decisions of the past which held that the Fair Labor Standards Act, popularly known as the wage and hour law.

The brief was filed by Solicitor General Francis Biddle preparatory to arguing constitutionality of the law, which sets minimum pay and maximum hours standards for employees in industries engaged in interstate commerce.

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Veteran Tobacco Whk. President Retired on Pension by Union

E. Louis Evans, veteran president of the Tobacco Workers' International Union, who declined re-election, has made a life-time honorary member.

The third and final election, held Oct. 30, was a run-off election between the I. B. E. W. and the Labor Board itself. The workers dropped from the ballot. This election resulted in victory for the I. B. E. W. and full substantiation of the claim that the union now certifies the I. B. E. W. as the generally representative of the workers.

Throughout the fight which culminated in the election, the I. B. E. W. continued not only against the opposition of the CIO but the Labor Board itself.

After a clear majority of 2,700 to 1,400, with four ballots being voided and twenty-five could not affect the result, and as a result of the I. B. E. W. preventing the union from holding the election to the CIO on a silver platter.

This is clearly shown by the record of the election, which was held more than three years ago, the workers were permitted to vote the I. B. E. W. for the CIO or for either union, and received a plurality of votes, so the

Labor Board called for a run-off election.

In the run-off election the Labor Board sought to exclude the I. B. E. W. from the ballot "although it had been voted in with a clear majority of the CIO. The Board decided the workers would have to choose between the CIO and the I. B. E. W. in order to manifest unfairness of this ruling, the I. B. E. W. was courted and stopped the Labor Board from getting away with it."

The Board then ordered a second election, again giving the workers the choice of the CIO or the I. B. E. W. and neither union. Again the result failed to establish a majority in any one category.

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union leaders supported WILLKIE FOR PRESIDENT.

An announcement was made during the week that the following officials of International unions had endorsed their support of Wendell Willkie for the presidency:

E. LOUIS EVANS
WILLKIE FOR PRESIDENT

This occurred at the convention of the union recently held in Louisville, Ky. Elected president was W. Warren Smith, president of Louisville Local 136; Robert Pearce, secretary-treasurer, and Elmer Koenig, general manager.

Reports of officers showed a substantial increase in membership and an affiliation with several large tobacco and cigarette manufacturers during the past year.

Workers' Income Seen At 1924-1929 Level

Industrial production for 1940 will show a gain of about 10 per cent over the record of 1924, U. S. Department of Agriculture predicted.

Such an improvement, the bureau said, based on analysis of the economic situation, would raise incomes of industrial workers to the 1927 "post-depression" peak of about the

average of 1924-25 period.

Additional gains in industrial activity this year, however, were expected to be developed, the bureau said, by "the cumulative effect of the expanding and intensifying of war production on the 1941 automobile models, Government buying and other factors pointing to a high rate of activity in the economy." The prospect for less than the usual seasonal conglomeration in residential building was the recent trend in commodity prices.

The general export outlook for farm products continued "very unsatisfactory," the bureau reported.

Reported by the Bureau of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen and Engineers, said continuance of the present high level of activity in 1941 would permit a survey of the road's earnings and financial position for 1942.

Gen. Atkinson of Vermont recently moved for appointment of a fact-finding board under provisions of the Railway Labor Act to investigate situations existing in the railroad industry.

A result of the present agreement, it is probable no such board will be named before the end of the year.

The Rutland is now in the hands of a receiver.

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OCTOBER, 1940

PAGE SEVEN

Labor Demands Safeguards for Workers Against Becoming Mere Machine Tenders, Not Craftsmen

A. F. of L. Committee on Education Has Called Meeting in Washington for October 16 to Discuss Proposal of National Defense Advisory Commission to Promote Quick Training of Skilled Workers by "Upgrading" Methods.

In view of the wide-spread confusion in the field of vocational education due to the many advances taking defense training are the time, methods or purposes, and the proposal by the National Defense Advisory Commission to "upgrade" training skilled workers by "upgrading" methods, Matthew Woll, chairman of the American Federation of Labor's Committee on Education has called a special meeting of this committee for October 16 in Washington, D. C.

While the upgrading of labor recognizes that time is an essential element in the defense program, it also recognizes that the labor movement and to national progress without apprenticeship training without safeguards against the baffle from the market of the workers observed and of other employed workers. Skilled craftsmen are indispensable to the defense program which have been so mechanized that craftsmen are just as necessary in the battle front as in the workshop. Workers trained in only segments of a craft are not craftsmen. Labor wants safeguards in commanding guard workers against becoming mere machine tenders and the lack of education that goes with it, the lack of skill and responsibility of individual and national life.

Organizer "Al" Young Made a Rousing Good Speech at Meeting of Worcester Central Labor Union

Young Man From Maine, on "Johnny" Murphy's Staff of New England Organizers, Makes Good Impression on Delegates in First Visit to Worcester.

Worcester, Mass., September 21.—Strong parent bodies, such as Central Labor Union delegates who were recorded as "absent" at last Wednesday night's meeting, will be present this evening. A goodly number of delegates present, however, and these heard one of the most interesting and best delivered in a C. L. U. meeting.

The speaker was Alfonso F. Young, Jr., who is comparatively new to the office of president and business agent of the Bar Harbor Union, which is a department of the Maine State Federation of Labor, and now one of "Johnny" Murphy's staff of J. L. Jr., New England Organizers, who are staying in Boston.

In the course of his stirring address, in which he kept his audience spellbound for more than half an hour, Mr. Young brought out strong points which he advanced in favor of establishing new unions, but in strengthening the membership of established unions.

He greatly brought out the importance of cooperation on the part of all local unions in all efforts to unify the labor movement, and as a result for uniting these organizations which are dependent on general support for their success.

He urged the cooperation of all local unions in all efforts to unify the labor movement, and as a result for uniting these organizations which are dependent on general support for their success.

"We urge the cooperation of our affiliated unions," he said, "so that by their compliance the work of the convention may be expedited in every reasonable way." the communication states in conclusion.

Administrator John C. Fitzgerald, program supervisor, and others.

Plans to come with a working fund to begin business. Bangor is said to be the third place in the state to adopt the plan.

It was announced that the Bureau of Marketing Administration had decided that certain products will be available under the Food Stamp Plan, to become effective October 1st.

Products will be selected by the Department of Agriculture for their market for their plentiful crop.

The members of the committee are: Matthew Woll, chairman; John P. Flynn, Elmer E. Millman, Irvin Kuehn and Thomas E. Burke.

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